



ENVISION ARLINGTON FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP  
Meeting Minutes 7:30 PM 12/20/18

Senior Center Ground Floor Conference Room

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieson (Co-Chair), Heather Remoff, Mike Delisi, Pete Howard (Secretary)

Leadership Interviews: Gordon to arrange with Fire Chief. Gordon & Heather will conduct interview.

Financial Officer Invitations to meeting: Gordon to arrange with School CFO in Feb

Community Corner #8: "Overrides and Debt Exclusions" Gordon provided a version with the intro & closing paragraphs. He also made changes to Pete's revised draft that included significant changes suggested by Heather & Mike. Mike provided changes to Gordon's version. Since this is a somewhat technical subject members suggested changes to improve clarity and accuracy. Members were also concerned to maintain a consistent voice. Gordon will incorporate the suggestions & email the result for additional review.

Assessors Report To Select Board: While reading this material, now available online on the Friday before a Select Board meeting, Gordon noticed the possibility of a residential exemption mentioned in connection with the effect of a split rate. This exemption, a provision available to some communities, has not been used in Arlington. Gordon asked the Manager for data that would allow him to estimate how a split rate combined with a residential exemption would affect the taxes of owners living in their properties. He expected that the increase in CIP taxes from the split rate (mostly to rental apartment owners) required to make up for the loss of revenue would benefit owners of less expensive single family homes. The assessors ran a series of what-if analyses & provided Gordon with the results. Gordon summarized the results (Ref 1). This has been proposed as a way to shift the tax burden to owners living in more valuable homes and to business and renters for the benefit of owners living in less valuable homes. Questions remain.

High School Building Project: The group was joined by the building's evening caretaker, Janet Pagliuco. Mike & Gordon reviewed recent High School Building Committee meetings. They tried to explain how the building costs would affect the tax rate, noting that the sum established by the debt exclusion vote is a ceiling. The taxes would be set to pay for the actual cost of paying principal and interest on actual money borrowed which might be less. Mike wondered if the non-education spaces in the new building (now said to include only school district offices and payroll offices) could be funded from the capital budget, perhaps by delaying other capital projects, so that the cost of the school proper would be all that the voters would have to approve. We thought that possible. We are looking forward to more realistic cost estimates due in January based on design details.

Next mtg Jan 17

Meetings monthly - 3rd Thursdays 7:30 PM - Usually in Senior Center

Ref 1 Split Rate And Residential Exemptions Effect on Taxes (Preliminary)

